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Reply to Office Action of December 13, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

There are no art rejections of claim 9. Therefore, claim 9 is amended by combining it with claims 1 and 2 to form new independent claim 15. Allowance of claim 15 is therefore requested.

The subject matter of claim 2 is combined into claim 1. Claims 2 and 9 are therefore canceled.

Most of the rejections were not applied to claim 2. Therefore, combining claim 2 with claim 1 renders them moot. Also, it is noted that Yoshida does not have an early enough publication date to be a reference under 35 USC 102(b).

The present invention includes a silver halide photographic material comprising on one side of a paper support, having resin coat layers on both sides of a base paper, one or more light-sensitive layers and one or more light-insensitive layers, wherein after the photographic material of an L-size (having a length of 89 mm in a machine direction of the base paper and a length of 127 mm vertical to the machine direction) is processed, the photographic material exhibits an image clarity (C-value) of 20% to 60% which is determined using a 1.0 mm optical wedge in

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accordance with JIS K 7105, and the photographic material comprising a light-insensitive hydrophilic colloid layer between a light-sensitive layer closest to the support and the light-insensitive hydrophilic colloid layer, contains a mercapto-heterocyclic compound.

Photographic material as defined in the claims exhibits an appropriate glossiness and results in improved sharpness, long-term storage stability, fingerprint resistance and pressure resistance. Thus, an image clarity (C-value) falling within the range, as defined above (and required in the claims) not only retains sufficient glossiness and a feel of high quality but also improves fingerprint resistance. Such advantageous effects of the invention are especially important for non-transparent images (i.e., the image seen by reflection) formed on non-transparent paper support and are combined with non-transparent, reflective paper support. In addition, when a heterocyclic mercapto compound is included, as claimed, the results are further enhanced effects. This is demonstrated in Examples of the specification (Sample 104, compared to Sample 104 in Table 1).

The only rejection of claim 2 is the rejection of claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 over Zorn in view of Nakamura. Combining claim 2 with

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claim 1 means that this is the only rejection of claims other than new claim 15 (allowable). Zorn teaches a color photographic silver halide material comprising at least one binder layer which contains colloidal silver and a heterocyclic mercapto compound to prevent contact fog produced during processing at the colloidal silver of the binder layer. The heterocyclic mercapto compound is added to the binder layer containing colloidal silver to reduce the contact fog by the action of reducing agents on the colloidal silver. Specifically, the photographic material taught by Zorn is directed to color photographic films having a transparent support, such as cellulose acetate support (col. 5, line 28-29) and forming transparent photographic images. Therefore, it is believed that one skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine a photographic material having a transparent support and forming transparent images taught by Zorn with a photographic material having a paper support and forming non-transparent and reflective images, taught by Nakamura with expectation of achieving advantageous effects as described above.

It is noted that claim 9 (now independent claim 15 (new)) is not rejected over the prior art. Thus, nothing is taught nor suggested in Nakamura or Zorn, specifically with respect to a

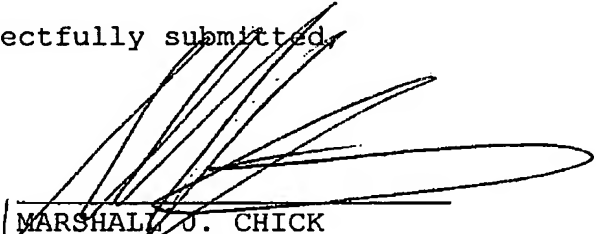
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blue-sensitive layer containing silver halide grains having an average grain size of 0.35 to 0.60 μm . In fact, Nakamura teaches a blue-sensitive emulsion comprising a blend of silver halide grain emulsion having an average grain size 0.88 μm and silver halide grain emulsion having an average grain size of 0.70 μm (see, col. 29, line 19-22). In view thereof, it is submitted that the subject matter of claim 8 is allowable for the same reasons that claim 9 is allowable. This is in addition to the reasons for allowance of claim 1 discussed above, from which claim 8 depends.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present invention is not shown or suggested by the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman
& Chick, P.C.
220 Fifth Ave., 16th Floor
New York, NY 10001-7708
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900
Fax No.: (212) 319-5101
MJC/ld

Respectfully submitted,



MARSHALL J. CHICK
Reg. No. 26,853